



The Honorable  
Christopher A. Hart  
Vice Chairman

# NTSB – Independent Agency

- Determine Probable Cause(s) of accidents, make recommendations to prevent recurrence
- Five Members, nominated by President, confirmed by Senate
- Safeguards for independence
- Conclusions from facts, not politics



# NTSB Basics (con't)

- Single focus is *SAFETY*
- Objective is to determine probable cause, not blame or liability
  - Final report not admissible in court
- Primary product: Recommendations
- Recommendation acceptance rate: <80%



# NTSB On-Scene

- NTSB usually in charge of investigation
  - Coast Guard often in charge re maritime mishaps
- Exception: Criminal activity
  - NTSB requests FBI to take over
  - NTSB provides support, as requested
  - Facts no longer freely disclosed



# NTSB Board Member On-Scene



National Transportation Safety Board

# Role of On-Scene Member

- Primary role is media liaison
  - May also be political liaison
- Facts are very sensitive, important to have NTSB as the only source
  - Correct
  - In context
- Important to avoid speculation
- Member preparation includes history of similar accidents, recommendations



# After On-Scene

- On-Scene Member no longer serves as media liaison
- Facts placed in public docket
- Media liaison is through Public Affairs
  - PA may choose to include Chairman



Thank You

***Questions?***



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